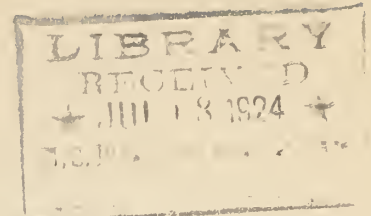


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BLISTER RUST NEWS SERVICE

Clip Sheet No. 13



Not to be released before July 17, 1924.

Land suitable for raising white pine can still be bought in New England for from \$3 to \$7 per acre. At 40 years of age, white pine in a well-stocked stand would yield on average sites about 25,000 board feet per acre, worth at least \$10 per M. ft. What the price will be 40 years from now is uncertain, but we know that since 1900 stumpage values have increased from \$5.00 to between \$10 and \$15 per thousand feet.

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White pine blister rust control work has progressed rapidly in the last 7 years. Efforts to control this pest by developing practical methods of destroying wild and cultivated currants and gooseberries began experimentally in 1917. Since then control measures have been applied on 2,668,000 acres of land in the Northeastern states, of which 892,639 acres or 29.9% were worked in 1923. It is estimated that there are about 6 million acres of white pine land in this section which as yet has not been protected from the rust.

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WHITE PINES AND ABANDONED FARMS

"Why is it that so many farms have been abandoned in this state?" asked a fellow passenger in the Pullman car.

"I know what the people around here think," I said, "that the land is too poor and worn out, and will not grow anything. But that is not so. It may not grow corn, wheat, rye, or potatoes economically, but this rough rolling land is first class for growing a white pine crop."

"To bring back the abandoned farm, bring back the woodlot to the highest state of production, say with white pine, and then use the best lands for cultivation of garden crops or pasturing or both. No wonder some of these farms were abandoned, for the cultivated acres had to support the family and pay all of the taxes. The woodlot could have paid the taxes, and yielded a good profit besides, if it had been compelled to by proper management."

"What about the blister rust, what is that likely to do to these pines?"

"That disease is being controlled by destroying the currants and gooseberries which harbor the rust. The U. S. Department of Agriculture is cooperating with the pine-growing states in combatting the disease. If you have a pine lot either in New England or New York, I would suggest that you have it examined by one of the blister rust control agents, with whom you can get in touch by writing your State Forester."

